

# ***The Advisor***

The Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq's Official Weekly Command Information Reporter - January 1, 2005  
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## **READY TO ROLL**

**Iraqi Security Force Graduations**

**R & R Details**

**NATO on the Ground**





# From the Command Sergeant Major

New Year's is the only holiday that celebrates the passage of time. Perhaps that is why, as the final seconds of the year tick away, we become introspective. Inevitably, that introspection turns to thoughts of self-improvement and the annual ritual of making resolutions, which offer the first of many important tools for remaking ourselves!"

- Gary Ryan Blair, Motivational Speaker & Author

History tells us that the Babylonians were the first civilization to make New Year's resolutions as a way of trying to right the wrongs of the past year and to chart a path for the future. This tradition spread through the Ancient Near East and was taken up by the Romans, who also established Jan. 1 as the beginning of the New Year. The Romans conducted various ceremonies and rituals to purge themselves of any lingering bad luck from the previous year and to prepare themselves for the new one. The notion of "turning over a new leaf," while a later reference to writing a new chapter in the book of life, comes from the Romans' idea of abolishing the past and starting a new year clean and unblemished.

At the start of the New Year, people often vow to change their lifestyles, to lose weight, give up smoking, or exercise more often. Others vow to make changes that are more fundamental in their behavior, such as being more charitable, kind or understanding to others. Being stationed in Iraq offers us a unique opportunity to reflect upon the past year, the things we have seen and done, and to prepare ourselves for 2005.

Aside from personal resolutions, I urge you to examine the past year and see how you could have improved yourself professionally. Are you completely proficient in all aspects of your job? Have you trained your subordinates to take over your duties if you're not around? Have you learned the duties of the next person in your chain of command, and are you ready to assume those duties if the need arises? Are you in the best physical shape you can be? Are you fully prepared for promotion to the next higher grade? If the answer to any of these questions is 'no,' then I would suggest you have some work ahead of you to correct these shortcomings. If you have been putting off these needed changes, don't delay. As we all know, living in Iraq means that we don't know what is going to happen from day to day, and we have to prepare for any eventuality.

In addition to these purely military resolutions, I urge you to think about how you can expand yourself as a human being. Resolve to learn something new each day. For example, you might want to learn more about the culture of the Middle East. We are working in the cradle of Western Civilization. Written language, currency systems, the foundation of Western law, all came from this region. Take time to learn about it, and the people that lived, and still live, here. If this subject does not interest you, find one that does. Regardless of how you want to better yourself, go after it with enthusiasm. We are on this earth for a relatively short time, and the more we learn, the more we use the time we are given, the richer our lives can be. Make sure that, when you look back on 2005, you'll see a year where you expanded your horizons and grew both professionally and personally. Happy New Year.

Volume 1

Issue 17

January 1, 2005

## MNSTC-I

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Cover Photo: An Iraqi soldier ready to drive the M35A2 on convoy operations



# Rest and Recuperation

15 days of leave, travel paid for by the government

The U.S. Central Command Commander has established a Rest and Recuperation Leave program in the theater that enables U.S. service members of all branches and Department of Defense civilians who serve in theater for at least one year the opportunity to take up to 15 days of annual leave in Europe or the United States. The program provides service members the opportunity to get away from the stresses associated with their missions and to focus on family and friends when they return home.

"I think the program is great. The system that is in place works for the number of people they have to run through it," said Lt. Col. Dave Flynn, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq advisor support team member. "Every few days they push groups from all over Iraq and Kuwait and get them to one place where they process all to fly out within 24-36 hours. You are back in the states and have 15 days on the ground."

There are restrictions on who can go and when, and not everyone will be eligible. R&R leave is available only to those individuals in theater for one year (Reservists who are mobilized for one year must be in theater a minimum of 270 days). Although many service members are eligible for R&R leave, operational requirements within theater and the unit redeployment schedule will preclude many from participating in the R&R Leave program. Commanders will select participants based on mission requirements, and specific command policies and priorities.

Rest and Recuperation Leave is a historical part of American military service and members have enjoyed some variety of R&R in every major conflict in U.S. history and commanders see this as an investment in the well-being of the forces that will improve mission performance.

The R&R program is not mandatory, and there are numerous programs that enhance the quality of life for service members serving in the theater. For example, a fighter management program is ongoing that provides opportunities for service members to travel to Kuwait and Qatar. Additionally, throughout the theater there are other well-being programs that provide service to the deployed service members (Internet cafes, food courts, gymnasiums, etc.).

If a service member is approved for R&R they can take 15 days of chargeable leave to go home, or to Europe and the airline tickets are free. Service personnel who have all ready taken R&R and bought tickets can be reimbursed.

Another program available is the Rest and Recuperation Pass

Program (RRPP) 4 Day Pass, which enables personnel to get away to Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar or the Palace compound in Baghdad. It is four days of non-charged leave and is granted by the service members leadership.

Remember both of these programs are privileges, not rights and are based on operational needs of the units and the commander's judgment. Also, you are expected to act professional at all times and maintain the highest standards of personal behavior. For additional information and details check out:

<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/WellBeing/RRLeave/index.HTM>

## Are you Eligible?

- Assigned to a 12-month tour of duty, in the Central Command, area. Reservists must be on a 1-year mobilization and serve at least 270 days of continuous duty within theater.
- Serving in an area specifically designated by Department of Defense where Imminent Danger Pay and Hazardous Duty Pay are authorized



*Petty Officer 2nd Class Dave Winstrom, Marine Sgt. Chris Almquist, Army Sgt. Kenneth Northup and Senior Airman Kandice Saunders, U.S. personnel assigned to MNSTC-I hold up phone cards and letters sent here from the Groton School in Groton, Mass. Recently U.S. Command Sgt. Maj. Brown received 50 phone cards that the children of the school raised money to buy for MNSTC-I members.*

*Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

# NATO Expands Training Mission in Iraq

*By U.S. Army Maj. Cynthia F. Teramae  
NATO Public Information Office*

BAGHDAD, Iraq - NATO has entered the second phase of a four-phase training mission in Iraq with the establishment of its new headquarters building in the International Zone.

After the Iraqi Interim Government requested training assistance, NATO support was approved by the North Atlantic Council in June at the Istanbul Summit. NATO sent an advance party in August to pave the way for the initiation of the mission.

The Iraqi training mission is NATO's second out-of-area mission after the deployment of NATO forces to Afghanistan in August 2003. That mission is ongoing and has seen much success since its inception.

The NATO Training Mission - Iraq, or NTM-I, will focus on providing training and advising to the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and Iraqi security forces middle to senior-level leaders as well as the coordination of equipment assistance for ISF. Additionally, in this second phase of the training mission, members of NTM-I will assist the Iraqi Ministry of Defense in the establishment of an Iraqi-led Training, Education and Doctrine Centre near Baghdad.

"We are taking a graduated approach to establishing this mission," said Norwegian Navy Capt. Ketil Olsen,

chief of plans for the NTM-I. "We want to ensure that the Alliance has the ability to increase in personnel strength in concert with the availability of resources. Presently we are establishing the in-country infrastructure that will be the foundation of our training and mentoring leading up to the establishment of the Iraqi Training Education and Doctrine Centre."

Once the mission is in full swing, about 300 NATO personnel will support. Currently, about 90 members from ten NATO countries are supporting the mission.

Over the past several months, members of the first phase of the NTM-I have been working in close coordination with the Ministry of Defense and ISF to create a training plan based on Iraqi military requirements. Training and mentoring has already begun with the input provided from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense. During this phase, the first out-of-country training was coordinated and conducted at the Joint Warfare Centre, Stavanger, Norway. The out-of-country training, under the direction of the Supreme Allied Command for Transformation at Norfolk, Virginia, will

be provided by NATO training and education facilities and several centers of Alliance and non-Alliance members.

SACT has also established the NATO Training and Equipment Coordination Group in Brussels, Belgium to facilitate nation's donation of military equipment to the Iraqi Security Forces.

"We are look forward to a strong working relationship with

our Iraqi military hosts," said Olsen. "We are here at the request of their government to train, advise, and assist in equipment procurement. All this will be done in close coordination with the Ministry of Defense. In the end, the desired end state is the fully functioning and self-sustaining Iraqi security structures responsible to the democratically formed Government of Iraq."

NTM-I is a sister training mission to the Multi-National Security Training Command. U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus is dual-hatted as the commander for both training missions. However, the two missions remain separate and distinct operations. "We adopted the dual-hatted command for force protection reasons and to ensure the two commands maintain a coherence and unity of effort," said Olsen.



*NATO's new headquarters building in the International Zone.*

*Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Cynthia F. Teramae, NATO Public Information Officer*



# ISF, ING Strike Insurgent Operations

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraqi and Coalition security forces conducted multiple raids recently seizing numerous weapons, munitions and personnel in the fight against insurgents here this month.

The Al Abarra Company of the Iraqi National Guard discovered it's 14th weapons cache in the first two weeks of December. Weapons from this site are believed to have been used against local ING headquarters and FOB Warhorse.

Iraqi Ministry of Interior commandos in Samarra, northwest of Baghdad, gathered intelligence from their own sources and conducted two raids in the city's industrial zone capturing six personnel and two large caches of weapons on Dec. 19.

The cache consisted of an SA-7 missile launcher, 80 38mm CS grenades (tear gas), and other grenades. Also captured were 10 rocket propelled grenades, three mortar tubes and numerous rounds for both. The MOI has discovered more than a dozen large caches of this kind since the beginning

of operations there in October.

The new Iraqi police station in Buhriz was completed on Dec. 19 and is fully operational. The station is located in a former Ba'ath party official's home.

On Dec. 20, the 205<sup>th</sup> Iraqi National Guard captured two brothers responsible for making and placing improvised explosive devices in the Muqdadiyah area. The brothers, Hassin and Said Hamed, were captured with the help of information gathered from questioning other detainees from previous operations.

A task force from the U.S. Army's 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineers and the 213<sup>th</sup> Iraqi National Guard conducted two joint operations in December. On Dec. 20, Operation ZAG GNU in Diyala captured insurgents and weapons. The mission, a cordon search and village assessment, yielded 14 detainees, 18 AK-47 rifles, 31 full magazines, 61 other magazines and 185 rounds of other ammunition.

Two days later the same teams

went to the village of Had Maksur in search of a firing point and weapons cache for a mortar position that was used against them the previous night. The soldiers searched a garden near the suspected firing position and found a 60mm mortar position, plastic explosives and improvised explosive device materials. They also captured and arrested one suspect.

In Ba'qubah, Iraq Neighborhood Watch and Adopt-A-Highway programs found more than 55 improvised explosive devices on the street and helped catch 30 suspects. Program participants turned over the suspects to Iraqi police in recent weeks.

An anonymous tip to the Diyala police department led to a weapons cache near Mufrek, in Ba'qubah. The informant said that an abandoned house was being used to store weapons. Inside were grenades, machine guns, artillery rounds, RPG launchers, plastic explosives, mortar rounds, and other munitions.

## Iraqi Officers Complete Training in Rome

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Forty-two Iraqi officers recently completed four weeks of studies at the Centro Alti Studi Difesa Military College in Rome, Italy. This is part of the continuing effort by coalition nations to train and assist the Interim Iraqi Government and its armed forces leadership.

Italian officers provided the instruction, which included decision-making, leadership, communication, international environments, international law and a wide variety of other military courses.

According to Col. Antonio Amato, an Italian military expert assigned to MNSTC-I, who works with the Ministry of Defense to train its security forces, "Everyone, both the staff and instructors at the school and the students were very happy with the course and the education the Iraqi officers received."

The Italian government paid all travel and expenses for the group of Iraqi officers including a generous 400 Euro stipend.

The end of course evaluations submitted by the students indicate that they were extremely satisfied with the course and the curriculum. The soldiers, officials said are now better prepared for the challenges ahead in the Iraqi army.

The graduating officers, captains and majors, returned to Iraq and their units this month. The next class, a senior staff course, is designed to benefit lieutenant colonels, colonels and civilians of the -MOD and the Ministry of Finance. This course will be hosted in Rome in 2005.



*The commander of Army Engineer School in Rome talks to Iraqi army officers during their training course.*

*Photo Courtesy of Col. Antonio Amato, Italian army MNSTC-I Joint Headquarters AST*

# ROLLIN, ROLLIN, ROLLIN...



*An M35A2, 2 1/2 ton truck tows a French PANHARD vehicle during training in Taji.*

## Taji Transportation Unit Prepares for Missions

*Story & Photos by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan, MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

TAJI, Iraq - The first of three Iraqi army transportation regiments is ready to commence operations providing much needed transportation capability to the Iraqi army.

At the Taji Military Training Base north of Baghdad final preparations, training and rehearsals are being conducted to prepare the Iraqi soldiers to move people and equipment and supplies around the country.

The regiment is organized into four transportation companies, a support company with supply, maintenance and recovery capabilities, and a security company.

Each regiment will have 190 heavy task vehicles and numerous other supporting

vehicles. American transportation soldiers from the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq are working closely with Iraqi soldiers in the classroom and in the field to ensure the soldiers receive proper training that will enable them to operate and maintain their vehicles now and in the future.

One of the vehicles unique to the American maintainers is the French-designed Panhard M3 armored personnel carriers. The armored vehicles, 36 of them – gifts from the United Arab Emirates – will be allocated to specific IAF units in the coming weeks as the Iraqi Ministry of Defense finalizes plans for their deployment.

Panhard M3 armored personnel carriers are six-wheeled APCs used to deliver infantry safely onto the battlefield and can be used for convoy security purposes as “gun



*An Iraqi soldier hooks up the tow cable to a truck*





***An Iraqi soldier gives the thumbs up and a smile.***

trucks” as well. The armored vehicles are capable of carrying a passenger load of up to 10 soldiers, are typically armed with heavy machine guns, and are capable of traveling up to 55 miles per hour on roads.

“The Iraqi soldiers here are highly motivated. They are very attentive in the classroom and outside with the hands-on training, when we are showing them something they are quick to absorb the information,” Sgt. 1st Class Randolph Welch a maintenance supervisor with the Multinational Security Transition Command-Iraq said. “They are hard workers and are very willing to learn. We do have a long way to go, but they are picking it up quickly. The leadership they have is outstanding!”

Today, the soldiers were busy changing tires, hooking up tow bars, cables and chains so they know what to do in the case of a breakdown or disabled vehicle while moving in a convoy. Welch and his team are planning for the future. “Once we turn over everything to the Iraqi army, they will know how to transport people and supplies all over the country. They have convoy routes set up and know what to do if their convoy gets attacked or ambushed,” Welch said.

The big-picture training is also going forward here. U.S. Army Capt. Stacey O’Keefe, a training officer with MNSCT-I is writing the training course for the Iraqi Army’s Transportation Officer Basic Course. She is preparing training materials, course curriculum and presentation slides. She emphasizes the importance of training the Iraqi officers to be effective trainers, and to be sure the information they are teaching is useful to Iraqi soldiers.

“We are shaping a whole new system here, we are



***French Panhard vehicles ready for convoy duty in Taji.***



***An Iraqi soldier operates the hydraulic jack while changing a tire on the M35A2, 2 1/2 ton truck. Iraqi transportation soldiers trained on emergency and maintenance procedures before their unit becomes operational.***

trying to create an army that they can be proud of and the soldiers want to serve in and I think we are working our way toward that,” O’Keefe said.

Ultimately, the Iraqi soldiers will take over every facet of the regiment’s operations. For the moment, the learning continues and MNSCT-I forces are assisting them.

An Iraqi colonel with the regiment is very proud of his troops. He believes the Coalition forces have been a great help to him and are showing the soldiers the correct way to do their jobs.

“Whatever the mission, we are going to do it!” said the colonel.





*Graduating officers from the Civil Intervention Force Academy stand in formation during a ceremony Dec 30.  
Photo by Ann Bertucci MNSTC-I CPATT*

## 1,900 Officers Graduate in Numaniyah

*By Ann Bertucci  
MNSTC-I CPATT*

The Iraqi Police graduated 1,938 specialized police officers; 1,190 Public Order Police and 748 Mechanized Police officers Dec. 30.

The officers completed intensive five week training programs conducted at the Civil Intervention Force Academy. The Iraqi Minister of Interior has turned to the Public Order Police to act as a bridging force in cities where the police force has not yet been established or will be reconstituted due to insurgency activity.

They provide a critical security presence, maintaining law and order, to ensure the safety and security of the local populace. The 8th Mechanized Police Brigade is a paramilitary police force designed to battle insurgents and assist local law enforcement officials dealing with serious insurgent threats or major criminal activity.

The unit is equipped with “BTRs,” wheeled armored vehicles with fire power capable of full-combat operations.

“These units require more training and more advanced equipment. However, once deployed to areas of unrest, they will be effective because of their training, motivation and morale, and dedication to their country,” said Col. Lawrence Pippins, program manager, counter terrorism special operations, for the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team.

Officers attending the courses came from areas throughout Iraq and will be deployed to their respective assignments following graduation. More than 1,000 officers who previously completed the course have been outfitted, equipped and deployed in support of security operations



*Newly graduated mechanized police officers stand next to a ‘BTR’ after ceremonies on Dec. 30. Photo by Ann Bertucci, MNSTC-I CPATT*

## The Advisor



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# Iraqi Coastal Defense Regiment graduates 122 'Marines'

By U.S. Navy Cmdr. William Dempsey  
MNSTC-I CMATT

UMM QASR, Iraq - One hundred and twenty-two Iraqi soldiers were sworn in as the newest additions to the Iraqi Coastal Defense Regiment Dec. 30 at the Iraqi naval base during graduation ceremonies held at this port. The Iraqi "Marines" had just completed a six-week advanced training course on top of the basic training provided at Kirkuk Military Training Base.

The mission of the Iraqi Coastal Defense Regiment is to conduct defensive maritime interdiction operations, anti-terrorist operations and defend Iraqi oil platforms in conjunction with and in support of the Iraqi Coastal Defense Forces within the territorial waters of Iraq. The ICDR training program consisted of a rigorous physical training regimen and training in sea sense (sea safety, sea survival, knot tying and firefighting), first aid and cardio pulmonary resuscitation, weapons

handling, advanced infantry skills, board and search operations, and rules of engagement.

The training also included a familiarization visit to the Al Basra Oil Terminal and Exercise RAPID RESPONSE, a practical progressive exercise that included maintaining 24- hour watch standing and responding to simulated attacks against a mock platform training facility.

The graduation was "another confident step in the right direction to build a strong force capable of defending the Iraqi territorial water and economic interests," ICDF Capt. Hameed Balasim, said at the ceremony.

Attending the graduation ceremony were Maj. Gen. J. P. Riley, General Officer in Command, Multi-National Division (Southeast), Commodore Mark Donahue, commander, Amphibious Squadron 11, CTF 50.3 currently responsible for the



*The newest Iraqi Coastal Defense soldiers "Pass and Review" at graduation ceremonies in Umm Qasr.*

*Photo by U.S. Navy Lt Edward Sisk*

Northern Arabian Gulf maritime security operations around the Iraqi oil terminals and representatives from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

"Today marks the beginning of a new era in Iraqi-Coalition combined operations," U.S. Marine Corps Col. Joseph Molofsky said. "The protection of the oil platforms is critical for the welfare of the Iraqi people. These new Iraqi marines seem well suited to take on that responsibility," said Molofsky, a fleet Marine officer for the U.S. Fifth Fleet.

Thirty ICDR personnel have been selected for instructor/non-commissioned officer training to form the NCO core of the ICDR for its future development and operational training as it works toward the eventual goal of assuming the point defense responsibility for the oil platforms.



*Iraqi Coastal Defense soldiers prepare to graduate from training in Umm Qasr*  
*Photo by U.S. Navy Lt. Edward Sisk*



**Pvt. Murphy**  
**By Sgt. 1st Class Mark Barker**



# FINAL FRAMES



*Three Iraqi soldiers change a tire on the M35A2 truck at Taji Military Training Base.*



*Above: A line of M35A2 “Deuce and a Half” trucks are lined up, fueled and ready to go on a convoy. MNSTC-I transportation soldiers are training Iraqi soldiers to operate and maintain these and other vehicles at Taji. Right: An Iraqi soldier stands in a French made Panhard fighting vehicle.*



*Photos by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan, MNSTC-I Public Affairs*